



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, December 30, 2008

08-163

**ANCHORAGE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRUG CHARGES IN FEDERAL COURT  
FACING MANDATORY MINIMUM OF 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced that on December 30, 2008, after deliberating for one and half days, a jury of eight women and four men found Lonnie John White, of Anchorage, guilty of one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and two counts of distribution of a controlled substance. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on three of the distribution counts. The United States has until January 12, 2009 to determine whether it plans to retry White on those three counts.

White, age 28, was tried before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess.

According to Special Assistant United States Attorney Christine M. Thoreson, who prosecuted the case, the evidence presented at trial established White sold crack cocaine to a government informant on five separate occasions during 2006 and 2007. The amount of crack cocaine bought from White totaled 97.3 grams. At trial, jurors listened as SAUSA Thoreson played the audio recordings of the phone calls setting up the drug deals, as well as the audio and video recordings of the drug deals themselves. Testimony at trial also established that White threw approximately three ounces of crack cocaine out a window as FBI agents attempted to make entry into his apartment. After breaking down a reinforced front door, FBI agents found White standing by the open window with another ounce of crack cocaine at his feet. The total amount of crack cocaine recovered from White during the entire investigation totaled 210.2 grams.

Judge Burgess will schedule White's sentencing for sometime early next year. The law provides for a total sentence of up to life in prison, with a mandatory minimum of twenty years in prison on two of the drug charges, a fine of \$4,000,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based on the seriousness of the offenses and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Pending sentencing, the court continued White's detention.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of White. SAUSA Thoreson is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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